whose houses have either been washed away or partially damaged in the recent floods;

(b) whether the State has asked for these funds from the National Calamity Contingency Fund, as the State Government is not in a position to provide its share; and

(c) if so, the status of the proposal and by when the State Government would be sanctioned the funds for rehabilitation work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal was considered by the Ministry of Home Affairs. An amount of Rs. 21.00 crore for repairs/restoration of damaged houses has been released under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) during 2003-2004.

Scheme for housing loan and insurance policy

1677. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to introduce a package scheme for housing loan and insurance policy for the agricultural and rural housing areas; and

(b) if so, the details of the criteria for advancing the loans to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHANAM RAJU): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to introduce a package scheme for housing loan and insurance policy for the agricultural and rural housing areas in the Ministry of Rural Development.

Drinking water scheme for rural Areas of Maharashtra

†1678. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes sanctioned during the last three years for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.